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**TEXTILE-LIKE CAPACITIVE PRESSURE SENSOR AND
METHOD OF MAPPING THE PRESSURE EXERTED AT POINTS
OF A SURFACE OF A FLEXIBLE AND PLIABLE OBJECT,
PARTICULARLY OF A SAIL**

Abstract of the Disclosure

A device for detecting the pressure exerted at different points of a flexible and/or pliable object that may assume different shapes, includes a plurality of capacitive pressure sensors and at least a system for biasing and reading the capacitance of the sensors. The requirements of flexibility or pliability are satisfied by capacitive pressure sensors formed by two orthogonal sets of parallel or substantially parallel electrodes spaced, at least at each crossing between an electrode of one set and an electrode of the other set, by an elastically compressible dielectric, forming an array of pressure sensing pixel capacitors. The system for biasing and reading the capacitance includes column plate electrode selection circuits and row plate electrode selection circuits and a logic circuit for sequentially scanning the pixel capacitors and outputting pixel values of the pressure for reconstructing a distribution map of the pressure over the area of the array.

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